

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 6-13 and 17, 18, and 21-28 are pending. Claims 2-6, 9-13, and 21-26 are amended, Claims 3, 5, and 14 are canceled, and Claim 27 is added by the present amendment. The changes to the claims and addition of Claims 27 and 28 correct informalities and are support in the originally filed disclosure at least at Claim 12, page 3, lines 12-23, page 4, lines 23-29, and page 7, lines 21-32. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2-7, 9, 12-14, 21, 22, and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Beauchamp (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,139) in view of Singer, et al. (WO 9945535, herein “Singer”)¹; Claims 8, 10, 11, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Beauchamp in view of Singer, further in view of McConnell et al. (US 6,011,373, herein “McConnell”); and Claim 23 was indicated as allowable.

At the outset, Applicants and Applicants’ representative thank Examiner Pham for the courtesy of an interview with Applicant Singer and Applicants’ representative on September 15, 2009. The amendments and arguments discussed during that interview are substantially repeated herein.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability for Claim 23 and respectfully traverse the rejections of pending Claims 2-14, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 24-26.

Amended Claim 22 recites an **input to an actuator of the electromechanical mechanism “constructed based on acoustic frequencies of the paper,** the acoustic frequencies of the paper being **associated with acoustic noise generated by advancement**

¹ Claim 22 is not included in the listing of rejected claims at page 2 of the outstanding Office Action but is discussed as rejected based on Beauchamp and Singer.

of the paper by the electromechanical mechanism, to reduce the acoustic noise generated by the advancement of the paper.”

As discussed during the interview, none of the cited references teaches or suggests the above-quoted features of amended Claim 22. In fact, acoustic frequencies of the paper, which are associated with acoustic noise generated by advancement of the paper by the electromechanical mechanism, are not addressed by any of the cited references at all. Thus, McConnell fails to cure the deficiencies of Beauchamp and Singer at least with regard to the above-quoted features of amended Claim 22.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claim 22 and Claims 2-13, 17, 18, 21, and 24-26, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

New Claim 27 recites “**an input to a controller of the electromechanical mechanism constructed based on acoustic frequencies of the paper, the acoustic frequencies of the paper being associated with acoustic noise generated by advancement of the paper by the electromechanical mechanism, to reduce the acoustic noise generated by the advancement of the paper.”**

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 27 patentably defines over Beauchamp, Singer, and McConnell, individually and in combination, because, as discussed above, the cited references do not address acoustic frequencies of the paper, which are associated with acoustic noise generated by advancement of the paper by the electromechanical mechanism at all. Further, based at least on the patentability of Claim 27, the dependent claims depending from Claim 27 are also patentable over the cited references.

New Claim 28 depends from Claims 22 and 27 and, therefore, patentably defines over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claims 22 and 27.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



W. Todd Baker
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 45,265

Usha Munukutla-Parker
Registration No. 61,939

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)